

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A clothes drying apparatus comprising:
 - a cabinet defining an interior region for receiving an article of clothing;
 - at least one door operably connected to said cabinet, allowing access to said interior region of said cabinet;
 - a means for holding said article of clothing received within said interior region of said cabinet;
 - a first intake passage in operable communication with said cabinet linking said cabinet to an exterior environment of a building; and
 - a vacuum unit operably attached to said cabinet for drawing air from said exterior environment of a building through said passage and into said interior region of said cabinet.
2. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second intake passage in operable communication with said cabinet linking said cabinet to an interior environment of a building; and
 - a intake switching mechanism operably connected to said first intake passage and said second intake passage, said switching mechanism capable of engaging one of said first and second intake passages, said engagement of

said intake switching mechanism enabling said vacuum unit to selectively and alternatively draw air from said exterior environment of a building and said interior environment of a building.

3. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a sensor capable of detecting a variable, said sensor in operable communication with said intake switching mechanism.

4. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sensor is capable of monitoring said exterior environment of a building.

5. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a second sensor capable of detecting a variable within said interior region of said cabinet, said variable indicating clothing dryness.

6. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 3, wherein said sensor is capable of monitoring clothing dryness.

7. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 3, wherein said variable is selected from the group consisting of humidity and temperature.

8. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cabinet comprises a floor having a drain, said drain operably connected to said interior region of said cabinet.

9. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for holding said article of clothing comprises a rod.

10. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising exhausting means for exhausting air out of said clothes drying apparatus, said

exhausting means capable of selectively exhausting air into an interior or an exterior of a building.

11. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cabinet is insulated.

12. The clothes drying apparatus of claim 1, wherein said interior region of said cabinet comprises means for receiving footwear.

13. A method of drying an article of clothing within a clothes drying apparatus, said method comprising:

providing a cabinet defining an interior region for receiving an article of clothing;

providing at least one door in operable connection with said cabinet, said door allowing access to said interior region of said cabinet;

placing said article of clothing inside said interior region of said cabinet;

closing said door to enclose said article of clothing within said cabinet;

providing a first intake passage in operable communication with said cabinet;

connecting said interior region of said cabinet to an exterior environment of a building with said first intake passage;

providing a vacuum unit in operable communication with said cabinet for drawing air into said interior region of said cabinet;

drawing air from said exterior environment of a building into said interior region of said cabinet with said vacuum unit; and

circulating said air within said interior region of said cabinet to dry said article of clothing received within said interior region of said cabinet.

14. The method of drying clothes of claim 13, further comprising:
- providing a second intake passage in operable communication with said cabinet;
- connecting said interior region of said cabinet to an interior environment of a building with said second intake passage;
- providing a intake switching mechanism in operable connection with said first intake passage and said second intake passage for engaging one of said first and second intake passages with said interior region of said cabinet;
- engaging one of said first and second intake passages with said interior region of said cabinet with said intake switching mechanism; and

drawing air through said passage engaged by said switching mechanism.

15. The method of drying clothes of claim 14, wherein said switching mechanism selects one of said first and second intake passages based on a variable.

16. The method of drying clothes of claim 15, further comprising:
providing a first sensor capable of detecting said variable from said exterior environment of a building and capable of communicating said variable to said switching mechanism;
detecting said variable with said sensor, said sensor communicating with said switching mechanism following the detection of said variable; and
engaging said switching mechanism with one of said first and second intake passages upon said communication by said sensor.

17. The method of drying clothes of claim 16, wherein said variable value is selected from the group consisting of humidity and temperature.

18. The method of drying clothes of claim 13, further comprising:
providing a second sensor capable of detecting a variable in said interior region of said cabinet, said second sensor capable of communicating with said vacuum unit;

detecting said variable with said sensor, said sensor
communicating with said vacuum unit following the
detection of said variable; and
stopping the operation of said vacuum unit upon said
communication by said sensor.